



The Late, Grand Old Outdoors Man, Brigadier (Retd.) Jan Nadir Khan.

**Compiled By His Eternally Grateful Nephew,
Former Captain, Sardar Taimur Hyat-Khan.**

Late Brigadier (Retired) Jan Nadir Khan was Born in Pre-Partition British India, the son of a Native Cavalry Officer, Risaldar Nadir Khan, a descendant of Sultan Muzaffar Khan Bamba, the Conqueror of Muzaffarabad District and Founder of Muzaffarabad City, named after him, in Azad Kashmir. Nadir Khan had served in World War I, in France and returned with a French Bride, who lived all her life, dedicated to her Children and Adopted Country. His son, from an earlier marriage, joined the British Indian Army, and rose to the rank of Risaldar in the Cavalry as well. Bagh Ali Khan, the eldest son, joined the Khilafat Movement in Support of the Sultan of Turkey against the British, was arrested while on his way to Turkey to join the fight and sentenced to death, Nadir Khan, after much effort, got the sentence removed in return of surrendering his Land Grant in Mian Channu, near Multan.

The Young Jan Nadir was on a trip to France, along with his Mother, when World War II Broke out. Escaping from the German Onslaught with difficulty, he received a Machine Gun bullet injury from the Germans, while boarding a boat to get on a Ship sailing for British India.

He was orphaned at a tender age, while doing his Matriculation from Rawalpindi, where he was a Class fellow to the Late Former Chief of the Army Staff, General Asif Nawaz Janjua and Late Lt. General Shah Rafi Alam, SJ, he joined the Military Engineering Service (M.E.S.) in order to look after his Mother, two younger brothers and a sister. He later opted for Commissioned Military Service and was inducted into the Officer Corps through the First Officer Training School (O.T.S.) at Kohat in the then Frontier Province. After a long and thoroughly Professional Stint in the Pakistan Army he retired, took up many jobs for his Country and dedicated himself to his lifelong interest in the Great Outdoors as well as Social Welfare. He successfully sponsored his brothers, the second elder, Late Yakub Khan, was inducted into the 1st Pakistan Military Academy Course but left as a Commissioned Captain, to pursue an Artistic Career in the Corporate Sector in the UK. The third brother, Late Doctor Ayub Ommaya, achieved fame in his own right as a Rhodes Scholar from The King Edward Medical College in Lahore, Pakistan to Balliol College, Oxford University, and later as a prominent Neuro Surgeon and Research Scientist in the United States, developing the Ommayad Shunt and Reservoir. His Sister (My Late, Lamented Mother) was briefly married, but soon returned home with three young children, myself included, to be brought up in turn under the Guardianship of the Universal Uncle Jan.

He Provided exemplary Services to Pakistan. He served the Pakistan Army with distinction in the Corps of Engineers, pioneering The Karakorum Highway, then called the Indus Valley Road in Kohistan District of the then Frontier District. I have seen him, as a child, on school holidays, performing prodigious, and often dangerous, efforts, Supervising Pilot



Cuts to make the Road in the Virgin and steep Mountains of Kohistan, towering above the raging Lion River, The Mighty Indus, as it rushes along it's Course towards the Distant Seas. The Precariously slung Bailey Bridges and the avalanches with daily fatalities, among the intrepid Engineer Troops, was a Challenge to the Forces of Nature and arose from the intrepid tenacity of the Pakistan Army Officers' and Jawans.



My Brother, Omar Hyat and Myself, in Kohistan Early 1960s

The Planning, Survey and initial Alignment of the Lowari Top Tunnel was another memorable Engineering Feat. A 10.4 kilometers (6.5 miles) vehicular [tunnel](#) under the [Lowari Pass](#) of the [Hindu Kush Mountains](#), between [Dir](#) and [Chitral](#) in the then Frontier, now [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](#) Province of [Pakistan](#). Originally conceived as a Railway Tunnel, construction began in September 1975 and was inaugurated by the then [Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto](#). However, less than a year later work stopped in 1976 due to non allocation of funds.

After Retiring from the Pakistan Army, he was first entrusted with the challenging Task of being the President of the Kohistan Development Board, where Millions in Foreign Aid were dispensed in building basic Infra Structure, Small Industrial Units as well as Education and Medical Facilities in the Earth Quake Disaster Struck Area and otherwise completely undeveloped Kohistan District. The Services that he rendered to the area earned him the Title of 'Shaheen e Kohistan', or Eagle of the Mountain Country, by a grateful populace.

“The devastating earthquake, centered in Patan, Kohistan, Frontier Province, Pakistan (1974.12.28) had a focal depth of about 8–10 km. It involved a high angle reverse faulting (thrusting) and had seismic moments of about 2.2 to $2.7 \cdot 10^{25}$ dyne cm. This shallow depth contrasts with the deeper hypo-centers found in the Hindu Kush and Northeast Karakorum to the North and in Hazara to the South. The Patan

shock was assigned a depth of 45 km by the ISC, indicating that even well-recorded events in this Region may have focal depths in error by 30 km.”¹

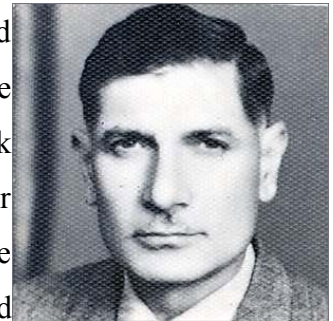
“In the early evening of 28 December 1974, a magnitude 6.0 (*mb* USGS) Earthquake occurred in a Remote and Mountainous region of Northern Pakistan, resulting in loss of life and damage to property. The Pakistani Army Engineers involved in construction and maintenance of the Karakorum Highway, a one to, two-lane gravel road along the Indus River valley, quickly established an efficient relief operation. Since the highway was damaged and unusable during most of the relief operation, helicopters were used to carry supplies from Besham, at the end of the usable highway, to Patan, where a Hospital camp was set up.

In Historic perspective, As early as the 4th Century BCE, the Region North of the Jhelum was reputed for its destructive earthquakes. Historians who accompanied Alexander the Great on his expedition in Swat allude to such events; they briefly state, that as a result of Earthquakes in this track of Country, even the beds of rivers are changed. Alexander must have reached Aornos (modern Pir-Sar, about 20 km from Besham) late in 327 BCE (Stein 1927).²

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHvHAzUA4UI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucYdZaogl5o>

He was next entrusted with the task of being Chairman of The Capital Development Authority (CDA), in Islamabad Pakistan where he revised the out of date Master Plan and supervised the establishment of Sector F-9 Park; the F-10 Housing Sector; the Building of the Faisal Mosque and the Fruit & Vegetable Farms in Chak Shahzad, Islamabad. He arranged Job Analysis and Evaluation of all over 10,000 Employees of the Authority. Bringing to Light and Exposing Fake Recruitment and allocating Responsibilities and Time to previously Haphazard Employees. He had the foresight to establish the Environment Directorate in the Authority. He Declared the Port City Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. as Twin City with Islamabad and was Presented with The Keys of Baltimore City. Jakarta, Indonesia was also declared as Twin City with Islamabad. He resigned from the Post of Chairman, in protest against the construction of a Large Cement Plant in a proposed Residential Sector, and Stone Crushing in The Margalla Hills Reserve Park, initiated from the very top tier of Federal Governance.



He was the founding President of the Adventure Foundation Pakistan (<http://adventurefoundation.org.pk/index.php>) and Founding General Secretary, as well as Chief

1 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/0040195183900550>

2 <https://pubs.geoscienceworld.org/qjehg/article-abstract/14/1/1/335944/The-Pattan-Pakistan-earthquake-of-28-December-1974>

Organizer of the S.O.S. Villages of Pakistan, Khyber Pukhtunkhawa Chapter, based at Dhodial Manshera and Abbottabad, both in the Scenic Hazara Division. He fostered a whole village in the Dhodial area for orphan children and his contribution toward developing leadership qualities in the youth would always be a motivating factor for everyone. Thousands of Helpless Children have been nurtured and educated in Family Atmosphere Homes in the Dhodial Village and this Service continues as a Tribute to him and the Founding President, Late Begum Mehmooda Salim, the Tireless Social Activist and First Lady Minister of Education for West Pakistan, and daughter of the Former Pre Partition Prime Minister of the Combined Punjab, Late Sir Sikandar Hyat-Khan, amply supported by the then Executive Committee including My Late, Lady Mother, Ms Nadine Khanum, under the able guidance of the present President, Ms Khola Mustafa, the Pioneer of the Iqra Schools System, with able support from Engineer Sultan Khan Jadoon as Treasurer, and Members of the Executive Committee, including Sardar Farukh Hyat and his Lady Wife, the Son in Law and Daughter respectively, of Late Begum Mehmooda Salim as well as Ms Sabrina Hyat, the Daughter of Late Brig (Retd) Jan Nadir's Late Sister. All of whom Carry the Torch of the Noble Founders, with aplomb and Fortitude to care for the Hapless Orphans of Hazara Division.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEb0osS91Nw&t=336s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0PJ6M9bno8>

The Late Brig (Retd) Jan Nadir was The Official Water Diviner for The Pakistan Army. He became interested in Dowsing early in his career and became the Official Dowser for the Pakistani Army. No wells were allowed to be dug without his approval. He had an over 98 percent rate of success. With his background in Geology he came up with the concept of Bio Geo Physics to explain the ability behind dowsing. He presented a Paper to this effect to the Technical University of Virginia. He brought precious Water to many a parched land, earning the gratitude of Humans, Animals, Bird and Flora. Those without hope, would find a new Lease on Life through his selfless dedication. He could tell the depth of Water Bearing Strata and whether it would be sweet or otherwise. Walking in the Sun, bent over his Divining Rod or Pendulum or using thin, parallel rods, bent at right angles and mounted in loose grips, he would painstakingly trace and retrace his footsteps, seeking out this precious Resource. This God Gifted Talent had been carefully nurtured and kept alive, despite having achieved a great age. Ever willing to oblige people, he devoted himself fully to the welfare of all.

He was a lifetime Member and supporter of American Society of Dowsters. www.dowsters.org. The American Society of Dowsters is a Non-Profit Organization that was founded in 1961, by eleven men who hoped to promote the education and development of dowsing. Charles Richet, a Nobel Laureate

once wrote: *“We must accept dowsing as fact. It is useless to work experiments to prove its existence. It exists. What is needed is its development.”*

Members of the American Society of Dowsers make up the largest organized body of dowsers in the world. ASD is also home to many of the Worlds’ most skilled dowsers, ranging from water dowsers to seekers of minerals and lost objects, energetic dowsers, esoteric dowsers, and a great deal more.

The Members of the Adventure Foundation, SOS Village Dodhial and people from different walks of life, all pay Glowing Tributes to Late Brig (Retd) Jan Nadir, for his contributions to the Fields of Social Welfare, Outdoor Education, and the Promotion of Adventure Pursuits in the Country.

His Services and Contributions will be long remembered.

His Lifelong Dedication and Commitment for the Character Building of young people and the Polishing of their Leadership Skills by involving them in Outdoor Adventure and Environmental Education Programs is a Landmark in Outdoor Education.

He Passed Away Peacefully, on September 8th, 2021, at the age of 95 years. He was a true Patriot and a Lifelong Believer and Promoter of turning the Youth of Pakistan into Leaders through Outdoor pursuits. He was known for his Honesty, being called ‘the only Honest Man in The Frontier’, by no less a Personality than the Late Lt. General Fazle Huq, the then Governr of the Frontier Province, during the Regime of General Zia ul Huq.

The APF's Founding President was a Upright Man of Principles, of strong Moral Character and an Inspiration for Thousands of People, who came across him.

Message from Brig (Retd) Jan Nadir Khan to Adventure Foundation in 1992.

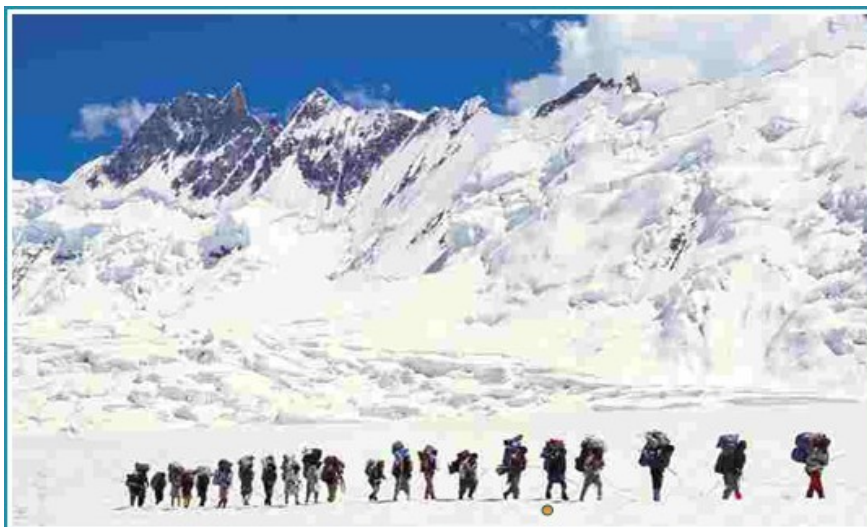
Founded in 1980, In our twelve year of Existence, we can look back with some Satisfaction at what we have Achieved; how we have Served our Aims and Objectives and how much we have Contributed to the Welfare of our Young People. It is Clear that the Concept of Action-Oriented Outdoor Education has worked well and Awareness of it as a Tool for Self-Development is well Served at all Levels.

Outdoor Education Engenders Greater Environmental Awareness and Enables our Venturers to Develop a Concern for its Preservation. It is for this reason that we notice a building up of Associations with Eco-friendly Institutions and O at the National and International Level.

To this end acquiring of knowledge and skills to live and work in the Wilderness becomes essential. The Foundation provides just such a Platform and Venturers should make good use of it to equip themselves to face the Challenges that they may face in the Great Outdoors.

The Foundation provides safe opportunities to the youth to discover themselves learn and experience first hand from the Natural Environment and the Challenges that it may present. You are invited to participate to the fullest extent with what our scheduled programme has to offer.

Have the Adventure of your Life!









NCMC

(Young Eco Guards)



Adventure Foundation Pakistan which has always taken leadin mountain related sports and environment conservation activities in Pakistan, took the initiative and launched a project NCMCM